

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A coupler comprising:
 an optical fiber receiving structure; and
 a fiber stop attached to said optical fiber receiving structure; and
 a lens situated along an optical axis defined by the optical fiber receiving structure
and the fiber stop such that there is a gap between the lens and the fiber stop;
 wherein said fiber stop has an index of refraction approximately the same as the
index of refraction of the lens.
2. **(Canceled)**
3. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the fiber stop
comprises a glass material.
4. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the fiber stop
comprises a plastic material.
5. **(Canceled)**
6. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the lens
comprises a glass material.
7. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the lens
comprises a plastic material.
- 8 **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the lens is an
aspherical lens.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.

10-34. **(Canceled)**

35. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 1, further comprising an optoelectronic element situated along the optical axis.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 1, further comprising an optical fiber situated in the sleeve, wherein a core of the optical fiber has an index of refraction that is approximately the same as the index of refraction of the fiber stop and the index of refraction of the lens.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein the core of the optical fiber is in physical contact with the fiber stop.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein the fiber stop comprises LASFN-9.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein the fiber stop comprises BK7.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 1, wherein the fiber stop comprises borofloat.

41. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 1, further comprising an LC barrel enclosing the fiber stop and the lens.

42. **(Previously Presented)** A coupler comprising:
a sleeve configured to receive an optical fiber;
a fiber stop comprising a first side proximate the sleeve and a second side opposite the first side, at least a portion of the second side being aspheric; and
a lens supported by the fiber stop such that there is a gap between the lens and the second side of the fiber stop, the lens having an index of refraction that is approximately the same as an index of refraction of the fiber stop.
43. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 42, further comprising an optical fiber situated in the sleeve, wherein a core of the optical fiber has an index of refraction that is approximately the same as the index of refraction of the fiber stop and the index of refraction of the lens.
44. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 42, wherein the fiber stop comprises LASFN-9.
45. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 42, wherein the fiber stop comprises BK7.
46. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 42, wherein the fiber stop comprises plastic.
47. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 42, wherein the fiber stop comprises glass.
48. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 42, wherein the lens comprises a ball lens.

49. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 42, further comprising an optoelectronic element situated along an optical axis that is defined by the first surface, the second surface, and the lens.

50. **(Previously Presented)** A coupler comprising:
an optical fiber receiving structure; and
a fiber stop proximate the optical fiber receiving structure; and
a lens situated along an optical axis defined by the optical fiber receiving structure and the fiber stop such that there is a gap between the lens and the fiber stop, and the lens and the fiber stop being configured such that when an optical fiber is received in the optical fiber receiving structure, the lens, fiber stop and a core of the optical fiber each have an index of refraction that is approximately the same; and
an optoelectronic element situated along the optical axis.

51. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 50, wherein the fiber stop comprises LASFN-9.

52. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 50, wherein the fiber stop comprises BK7.

53. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 50, wherein the fiber stop comprises plastic.

54. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 50, wherein the fiber stop comprises glass.

55. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 50, wherein the lens comprises a ball lens.

56. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 50, wherein the optoelectronic element comprises a laser light source.

57. **(Previously Presented)** The coupler of claim 50, wherein the optoelectronic element comprises a detector.